

Introduction

OVERVIEW

Network Health Exchange (NHE) was developed at the Chicago Westside Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) and has evolved over several iterations. The Network Health Exchange is a Decentralized Hospital Computer Program (DHCP) component that provides clinicians with quick and easy access to patients' information from any site where they have been treated. NHE provides the computer mechanism for VAMC clinicians to retrieve clinical patient data from other medical centers. The requester is notified of returned patient data through an alert that appears with the DHCP menu system. Patient data is displayed in a format similar to the integrated clinical reports found in Health Summary and can be viewed onscreen or printed.

The NHE package accesses several other DHCP files which contain information concerning diagnoses, prescriptions, laboratory tests, radiology exams, hospital admissions, and clinic visits. This allows a clinical staff to take advantage of clinical data supported through DHCP.

Network Health Exchange is based on the Health Summary package. However, NHE does not make calls to Health Summary so it is not necessary for a site to install Health Summary nor is familiarity with Health Summary required in order to use NHE.

Implementation and Maintenance

The NHE Manager menu and the Site Management functions contain the options necessary to administer the NHE package. The **Manager menu** contains options to add or edit sites in the station's VAMC NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE file, to inquire about messages requesting patient data, and to request or print patient data.

The **Site Management functions** nightly add patients to the VAMC NETWORK PATIENT file and purge messages from the NETWORK,HEALTH EXCHANGE mailbox. Three server functions process data requests, send an alert to the user when a request is complete, and add patients to the VAMC NETWORK PATIENT file. These functions are activated by directly accessing the utility or changing the time the routine is run.

Routine Descriptions

This section contains a list of the routines exported with the NHE package. A brief description of the function of each routine is included.

Routine	Description
AFJXADHB	Brief NHE patient data request complete
AFJXADHD	Process info and alert user
AFJXADPB	Brief pharmacy NHE patient data request complete
AFJXALER	Request patient info - Allergy
AFJXALRT	Process info and alert user
AFJXBLOO	Request patient info-Blood transfusions
AFJXCAH	Request patient info - Chem and Hematology
AFJXCAHB	Brief NHE request patient info - Chem and Hem
AFJXCAHS	Request brief patient info - Chem and Hematology
AFJXCYTO	Request patient info
AFJXDCS1	From Extract list of DS's with sig status
AFJXDCSU	From Discharge Summary Component driver
AFJXDIE2	Request patient info - Diet
AFJXDIET	Request patient info - Diet
AFJXDISA	Request patient info - Disabilities
AFJXDM1	Request patient info - Demographics
AFJXEND	End of patient info - Demographics
AFJXINST	Network health exchange install driver
AFJXLABO	Request patient info - Lab
AFJXLRM	Request patient info - Micro
AFJXLRM1	Request patient info - Micro
AFJXLROC	List cleanup
AFJXMABX	Print by section NHE
AFJXMBOX	Search for previously completed Network Health Exchange requests
AFJXMEDI	Request patient info - Medicine Summary
AFJXNTEG	Package checksum checker
AFJXORDR	Request patient info - Orders

Routine	Description
AFJXPATL	Sends data for NETWORK PATIENT file D ^AFJXPATL will send data to be included in NETWORK PATIENT file to the sites you have added to the VAMC NETWORK HEALTH AUTHORIZED SITES file and for which you have filled in the fields for UPDATE NETWORK IDENTIFIER and the NETWORK PATIENT file. You will only get data from other sites if you fill in the field to accept their updates. You must answer YES for your own site to also get data added from its files to the NETWORK PATIENT file. Your own site data must be in this file so that all sites in your network area are synchronized.
AFJXPATS	Network health cross ref patient
AFJXPHCY	Auto pharmacy complete
AFJXPHIV	Request patient info - Inpatient Pharm
AFJXPNHA /RF/BC	Auto add patients to db & update network id
AFJXPNHF	Print network health ex's for individual
AFJXPNHI	Print completed network health ex's
AFJXPNHT	Get server message and automatically add patient to common db
AFJXPNHX	Network health exchange message purge
AFJXPPED	NETWORK PATIENT file one-time cleanup NOTE: At installation, D ^AFJXPPED can be run to clean up the NETWORK PATIENT file (#537010) if the site has been running a previous version of Network Health Exchange.
AFJXPUL2	Request patient info - Pulmonary function tests
AFJXPULM	Request patient info - Pulmonary function tests
AFJXRADI	Request patient info - Radiology
AFJXRALT	Alert user
AFJXRATS	Request patient info - Radiology
AFJXRIMP	Request patient info - Radiology impression
AFJXSFAL	Server to send alert network health is complete
AFJXSPTH	Request patient info - Surgical Path
AFJXSURY	Request patient info - Surgery
AFJXTEMA	One-time automatically add patient to db

Routine	Description
AFJXUNDS	Request patient info - Unit Dose
AFJXUNIT	Unit dose routine
AFJXVISI	Request patient info - Appts
AFJXVITA	Request patient info - Vitals
AFJXVITS	Request patient info - Vitals
AFJXWCBP	Request brief pharmacy patient information
AFJXWCCW	Crisis Note/Clinical Warning
AFJXWCL1	Request patient info - Micro
AFJXWCL2	Request patient info - Micro continued
AFJXWCL4	Request patient info - Adm Hist
AFJXWCL5	Request patient info - ptf codes
AFJXWCL7	Request patient info - Adm
AFJXWCL8	Request patient info - Adm
AFJXWCL9	Request patient info - Adm (cont)
AFJXWCLI	Inquire to network health exchange
AFJXWCP1	Network health exchange request patient info
AFJXWCP3	Inpatient meds
AFJXWCP4	Vitals
AFJXWCP6	Inpt meds
AFJXWCP7	Current orders
AFJXWCP8	Oupatient pharm
AFJXWCP9	Lab orders
AFJXWCPA	Gather patient allergy data (from allergy routine)
AFJXWCPB	Brief NHE request patient info
AFJXWCPC	Cyto extract
AFJXWCPD	Display 'VA' symbol
AFJXWCPE	Radiology profile from hs
AFJXWCPF	Dietetics
AFJXWCPG	Surgical path
AFJXWCPH	Request patient info - pharmacy
AFJXWCPJ	Inpatient meds
AFJXWCPL	Chemistry extract
AFJXWCPM	Request patient info menu
AFJXWCPN	Progress notes
AFJXWCPR	Order inquiry
AFJXWCPY	Request pharmacy patient information

Routine Descriptions

Routine	Description
AFJXWCPZ	Multiple functions
AFJXWPR2	Request patient info - Progress Notes
AFJXWPRG	Request patient info - Progress Notes

File List

This section includes a list and brief description of files that are exported with the Network Health Exchange package.

There are no files that come with data. Thus, there is no danger of any files overwriting existing data.

FILES AND GLOBAL

File Number	File Name	Global
537000	VAMC NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE FILE This is the tracking file for NHE requests.	^AFJ(537000,
#537010	NETWORK PATIENT FILE This file contains patients seen in the network area.	^AFJ(537010,
537015	VAMC NETWORK HEALTH TYPES FILE This file contains the components available, the 27 information categories supported by NHE.	^AFJ(537015,
537025	VAMC NETWORK HEALTH AUTHORIZED SITES FILE This file contains the names of facilities allowed to receive requests for patient information.	^AFJ(537025,

FILE SECURITY

There is no file security on the four NHE files: 537000, 537010, 537015, 537025.

Records for patients in the database with an SSN containing five leading 0s (zeroes), two leading EEs or ZZs or a P will not be sent across to other sites.

Exported Options

MENUS

Network Health Exchange has two menus:

Network Health Exchange Options

AFJXNHEX REQUEST

This menu comprises options to retrieve patient information from another VAMC site. It permits the retrieval of medical record or pharmacy information and allows that information to be viewed onscreen or printed. It is intended to be used by health professionals who have direct patient care responsibilities and have need for clinical information.

Network Health Exchange Manager

AFJXNHEX MANAGER

This menu contains options which afford managerial control of the operation of the local Network Health Exchange package and also allow access to retrieve and print patient data from other VA Medical Centers . The Network Health Exchange Options (AFJXNHEX REQUEST) are subsumed under the Manager menu as Option 3. This menu is intended to be used by individuals responsible for managing NHE.

Network Health Exchange also has five **Site Management Functions**. These are utilities for system managers to maintain the NHE package at their site. The functions are activated by directly accessing the utility or by changing the time the routine is run.

MENU OPTIONS

User Menu

Network Health Exchange Options

AFJXNHEX REQUEST

Brief (12 months) Medical Record Information	AFJXWCPB
Total Medical Record Information	AFJXWCP1
Brief (12 months) Pharmacy Information	AFJXWCBP
Total Pharmacy Information;	AFJXWCPY
Print (Completed Requests Only)	AFJXMBOX
Print By Type of Information (Completed Requests)	AFJXMABX

Manager Menu

Network Health Exchange Manager Options
MANAGER

AFJXNHEX

Network Health Exchange Add/Edit Sites

AFJXNHEX EDIT SITES

Network Health Exchange Inquiry

AFJXNHEX INQUIRE

Network Health Exchange Options

AFJXNHEX REQUEST

Site Management functions

Network Health Exchange Utilities for Site Management:

AFJXNETP

Network Health Patient Server

AFJXNHDONE

Network Health Exchange Alert Send Server

AFJXSERVER

Network Health Exchange Data Server

AFJXNH ADD PATIENTS

Network Health Exchange Add Patients

AFJXNH PURGE NIGHTLY

Network Health Exchange Nightly Purge

SECURITY KEYS

There are no security keys used in the DHCP Network Health Exchange menu.

SPECIAL SECURITY FEATURES

Network Health Exchange generates a bulletin if data is requested for a *sensitive* patient. This bulletin is directed to the same user group (mail group) that currently reviews notices about access to *sensitive* patient records, as specified in the MAS parameters file (#43).

Records for patients in the database with an SSN containing five leading 0s (zeroes), two leading EEs or ZZs or a P (pseudo) will not be sent across to other sites.

Cross References

This section contains descriptions of the cross references on fields in the Network Health Exchange files. The cross references are grouped by file. The field is identified along with the cross reference's name (or number if there is no name) and a brief description.

VAMC NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE FILE (#537000)

Field	X-ref ID	Description
MESSAGE ID	"B"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by MESSAGE ID.
REQUESTING PLACE	"C"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by REQUESTING PLACE.
DATE/TIME RECEIVED	"D"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by DATE/TIME RECEIVED.
REQUESTOR NAME	"E"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by REQUESTOR NAME.
PATIENT SSN	"F"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by PATIENT SSN.

VAMC NETWORK PATIENT FILE (#537010)

Field	X-ref ID	Description
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	"B"	Normal "B" cross reference on the .01 field.
NAME	"C"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by patient name.

VAMC NETWORK HEALTH TYPES FILE (#537015)

Field	X-ref ID	Description
NAME	"B"	Normal "B" cross reference on the .01 field.

VAMC NETWORK HEALTH AUTHORIZED SITES FILE (#537025)

Field	X-ref ID	Description
NAME	"B"	Normal "B" cross reference (on the .01 field.
STATION NUMBER	"C"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by the STATION NUMBER field.
NICKNAME	"AC"	Ordinary cross reference to facilitate lookup by the NICKNAME field.

Archiving and Purging

ARCHIVING

There are no package-specific archiving procedures or recommendations for the Network Health Exchange package.

The NHE package contains a data file (#537025) of VAMC NETWORK AUTHORIZED SITES. There are no archiving procedures for this file.

The volumes of data that NHE references are drawn from other DHCP packages (e.g., Health Summary). The data for those packages should be archived or purged according to their associated guidelines. Such archiving and purging does not affect the operation of the NHE package.

PURGING

NHE contains one purging option:

AFJXNH PURGE NIGHTLY

NHE Nightly Purge

This option is used to purge alerts and/or mail messages nightly from the mailbox of NETWORK,HEALTH EXCHANGE. Once messages and alerts are older than seven (7) days, they are flagged for purging and automatically purged when this option is run. It should be run each night following the other nightly job, AFJXNH ADD PATIENTS.



NOTE: At installation, a routine can be run (D ^AFJXPPED) to clean up the NETWORK PATIENT file (#537010) if the site has been running a previous version of Network Health Exchange.

Callable Routines

There are no callable routines in the Network Health Exchange package.

External Relations

PLATFORM REQUIREMENTS

The Network Health Exchange package requires a standard DHCP operating environment to function correctly.

Minimum requirements

Kernel V. 8.0

VA FileMan V. 21.0

MailMan V. 7.1

Kernel Toolkit V. 7.3

NHE patient data is displayed in a format similar to the integrated clinical reports found in Health Summary, however, NHE does not make calls to Health Summary. Therefore, it is not necessary to install Health Summary in order to use NHE.

Additional requirements:

There are no additional requirements or special relations between NHE and routines, files, or fields of other packages.

DATABASE INTEGRATION AGREEMENTS (DBIAS)

Integration Reference # 65

NAME:		ENTRY 65
CUSTODIAL	RADIOLOGY/NUCLEAR	Albany
PACKAGE:		
SUBSCRIBING	NETWORK HEALTH	San Francisco
PACKAGE:	EXCHANGE	
USAGE:	Controlled Subscription	APPROVED: APPROVED
STATUS	Active	EXPIRES:
DURATION	Till Otherwise Agreed	VERSION:
FILE: 70		ROOT: RADPT
DESCRIPTION:	Direct Global Reads	TYPE: File

Integration Reference # 996

NAME:		ENTRY: 996
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	RADIOLOGY/NUCLEAR	Chicago
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Controlled Subscription	APPROVED: APPROVED
STATUS	Active	EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: Radiology 4
FILE: 72		ROOT: RA(72,
DESCRIPTION:	Direct Global Read	TYPE: File
	B cross-reference is used to determine STATUS.	

Integration Reference # 1494

NAME:	SENSITIVE PATIENT BULLETIN NAME	ENTRY: 1494
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	REGISTRATION	Albany
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:		APPROVED: APPROVED
STATUS	Active	EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE: 43		ROOT DG(43,
DESCRIPTION:	To access the following element in the MAS PARAMETERS file (^DG(43,).	TYPE: File

Integration Reference # 1501

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1501
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	INPATIENT MEDICATIONS	Birmingham
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED:
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call ENIV^PSJAC in order to obtain Inpatient Medications information.	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1502

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1502
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	DISCHARGE SUMMARY	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED:
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call \$\$STATUS ^GMRDLI BC in order to obtain information on report status.	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1503

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1503
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	DISCHARGE SUMMARY	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED:
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call \$\$CANSEE^GMRDLI BP in order to. determine if a clinician may view a report onscreen.	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1504

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1504
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	DISCHARGE SUMMARY	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED:
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call \$\$ DATE^GMRDLIBS and \$\$NAME^GMRDLIBS to get information on Discharge Summaries.	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1505

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1505
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	HEALTH SUMMARY	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED: APPROVED
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call FMHL7DTM^GMTSU in order to obtain information.	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1506

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1506
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	LAB SERVICE	Dallas
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED:
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call ^LROC1 in order to obtain valid lab order information.	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1507

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1507
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	ORDER ENTRY/RESULT	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED: APPROVED
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call SAVE^OR1 to gather information.	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1508

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1508
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	ORDER ENTRY/RESULT	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED: APPROVED
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call AFT^OR4 to obtain information to be included in the NHE reports (Health Summary clones).	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1509

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1509
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	ORDER ENTRY/RESULT	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED:
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call \$\$TX^ORREV3 and TXOLD^ORREV3 to obtain information for the NHE reports (Health Summary clones).	TYPE: Routine

Integration Reference # 1510

NAME:	Info for Network Health Exchange (NHE)	ENTRY: 1510
CUSTODIAL PACKAGE:	ORDER ENTRY/RESULT	Salt Lake City
SUBSCRIBING PACKAGE:	NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE	San Francisco
USAGE:	Private	APPROVED:
STATUS		EXPIRES:
DURATION	Next Version	VERSION: 5.1
FILE:		ROOT:
DESCRIPTION:	To call END^ORUDPA to collect information for NHE reports (Health Summary clones).	TYPE: Routine

These are the DBIAs approved at publication time.

Internal Relations

NAMESPACE

The NHE V. 5.1 package uses the namespace AFJX.

FILE NUMBERS

Files for the package are numbered from 537000 to 537025.

Package-wide Variables

Network Health Exchange has no package-wide variables that have received SACC exemptions.

How to Generate Online Documentation

RETRIEVING ONLINE HELP USING QUESTION MARKS

The use of question marks at the file and field level is described in the VA FileMan Technical Manual. The use of question marks within the menu system will invoke help about options and menus. One question mark at the top-level menu prompt will display the items available on the menu. Two question marks will show the Common Menu available to all users as well as any secondary menu options for the current user. Locked options are displayed if the user holds the key. Three question marks displays descriptions of the options from the OPTION file (#19). Four question marks displays a help frame if one has been associated with this option in the OPTION file. A question mark followed by the name of an option on the current menu will display a help frame if one has been named for that option in the OPTION file.

PRINT OPTIONS FILE

The PRINT OPTION file, in the Kernel's Menu Management Menu, will display a list of namespaced options associated with the NHE package. Other namespaced entries may also be retrieved from the PRINT, INPUT, and SORT TEMPLATE files, and the SECURITY KEY, FUNCTION, BULLETIN, and HELP FRAME files.

LIST FILE ATTRIBUTES

This FileMan option allows the user to generate documentation pertaining to files and file structure. Utilization of this option via the "Standard" format will yield the following data dictionary information for a specified file(s):

- file name and description
- identifiers
- cross references
- files pointed to by the file specified
- files which point to the file specified
- input templates
- print templates
- sort templates

In addition, the following applicable data is supplied for each field in the file:

- field name
- number
- title
- global location
- description
- help prompt,
- cross reference(s)
- input transform
- date last edited
- notes

Using the "Global Map" format of this option generates an output which lists :

- all cross references for the file selected
- global location of each field in the file
- input templates
- print templates
- sort templates

INQUIRE TO OPTION FILE

This Menu Manager option provides the following information about a specified option(s):

- option name
- menu text
- option description
- type of option
- lock, if any

In addition, all items on the menu are listed for each menu option.

To secure information about Network Health Exchange options, the user must specify the name or namespace of the option(s) desired; i.e., AFJX.

Glossary

Abbreviated Response	This feature allows you to enter data by typing only the first few characters for the desired response. This feature will not work unless the information is already stored in the computer.
Access Code	A code that allows the computer to identify you as a user authorized to gain access to the computer. Your code is greater than six and less than twenty characters long; can be numeric, alphabetic, or a combination of both; and is usually assigned by a site manager or application coordinator. (See VERIFY CODE.)
ADPAC	Automated Data Processing (ADP) Application Coordinator (see Application Coordinator, below).
Alerts	Brief on-line notices that are issued to users as they complete a cycle through the menu system. Alerts are designed to provide interactive notification of pending computing activities, such as the need to reorder supplies or review a patient's clinical test results. Along with the alert message is an indication that the View Alerts common option should be chosen to take further action.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute.
ANSI M	An implementation of the M computer language that conforms to ANSI standards.
Application Coordinator	Designated individuals responsible for user-level management and maintenance of an application package such as IFCAP or Lab. Also abbreviated as ADPAC (ADP Application Coordinator).
Application Package	In DHCP, software and documentation that support the automation of a service, such as Laboratory or Pharmacy within VA medical centers (see Package).
Application Programmer	The person who writes code for application packages; also called a developer.

ARG	Applications Requirements Group. Representative users from the field and Program Office who make recommendations for software development. Three ARGs exist: Clinical, Management, and Integration & Technology. The ARGs report to the Information Resources Advisory Council (IRAC).
Array	An arrangement of elements in one or more dimensions. A MUMPS array is a set of nodes referenced by subscripts that share the same variable name.
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange. A series of 128 characters, including upper and lower case alpha characters, numbers, punctuation, special symbols, and control characters.
Audit Access	A user's authorization to mark the information stored in a computer file to be audited.
Auditing	Monitoring computer usage such as changes to the database and other user activity. Audit data can be logged in a number of VA FileMan and Kernel files.
Auto-menu	An indication to Menu Manager that the current user's menu items should be displayed automatically. When auto-menu is not in effect, the user must enter a question mark at the menu's select prompt to see the list of menu items.
Backup	The process of creating duplicate data files and program copies or both as a reserve in case the original is lost or damaged.
Bug	An error in a program. Bugs may be caused by syntax errors, logic errors, or a combination of both.
Bulletins	Electronic mail messages that are automatically delivered by MailMan under certain conditions. For example, a bulletin can be set up to fire when database changes occur, such as adding a record to the file of users. Bulletins are fired by bulletin-type cross references.
Callable Entry Point	An authorized programmer call that may be used in any DHCP application package. The DBA maintains the list of DBIC-approved entry points.

Capacity Management	The process of assessing a system's capacity and evaluating its efficiency relative to workload in an attempt to optimize system performance. The Kernel provides several utilities.
Caret	A symbol expressed as ^ (uppercase of the 6 key). In many M systems, a caret is used as an exiting tool from an option. Also known as the up-arrow symbol.
Checksum	A numeric value that is the result of a mathematical computation involving the characters of a routine or file.
Cipher	A system that arbitrarily represents each character as one or more other characters. (See encryption.)
Command	A combination of characters that instruct the computer to perform a specific operation.
Common Menu	Options that are available to all users. Entering two question marks at the menu's select prompt will display any secondary menu options available to the signed-on user along with the common options available to all users.
Computed Field	This field takes data from other fields and performs a predetermined mathematical function (e.g., adding two columns together). You will not, however, see the results of the mathematical function on the screen. Only when you are printing or displaying information on the screen will you see the results for this type of field.
Control Key	The Control Key (Ctrl on the keyboard) performs a specific function in conjunction with another key. On some systems, for example, Ctrl-S causes printing on the terminal screen to stop, while Ctrl-Q restarts printing on the terminal screen.
CORE	The fundamental clinical application packages of the DHCP.
CPU	Central Processing Unit. Those parts of computer hardware that carry out arithmetic and logic operations, control the sequence of operations performed, and contain the stored program of instructions.

Cross Reference	<p>An indexing method whereby files can include pre-sorted lists of entries as part of the stored database. Cross references (x-refs) facilitate lookup and reporting.</p> <p>A file may be cross referenced to provide direct access to its entries in several ways. For example, VA FileMan allows the PATIENT file to be cross referenced by name and social security number.</p> <p>A cross reference is also referred to as an index or cross index.</p>
CRT	<p>An acronym for cathode ray tube, the basis of the television screen and the standard microcomputer display screen. (See Terminal, Monitor, VDT.)</p>
Cursor	<p>A flashing image on your screen (generally a horizontal line or rectangle) that alerts you that the computer is waiting for you to make a response to an instruction (prompt).</p>
Data	<p>A representation of facts, concepts, or instructions in a formalized manner for communication, interpretation, or processing by humans or by automatic means. The information you enter for the computer to store and retrieve. Characters that are stored in the computer system as the values of local or global variables. VA FileMan fields hold data values for file entries.</p>
Data Attribute	<p>A characteristic of a unit of data such as length, value, or method of representation. VA FileMan field definitions specify data attributes.</p>
Data Dictionary	<p>A global containing a definition of the structure of a VA FileMan file, its attribute fields, and its relationships with other files. of what kind of data is stored in the global. The data is used internally by FileMan for interpreting and processing files.</p>
Data Dictionary Access	<p>A DHCP user's authorization to write/update/edit the data format for a computer file. Also known as DD Access.</p>
Data Dictionary Listing	<p>This is the printable report that shows the data dictionary. DDs are utilized by users and programmers.</p>

Database	A set of data, consisting of at least one file, that is sufficient for a given purpose. The DHCP database is composed of a number of VA FileMan files. An organized collection of data about a specific subject, such as the PATIENT file; a data collection has different data fields (e.g., patient name, SSN, Date of Birth, and so on).
Database Management System	A collection of software that handles the storage, retrieval, and updating of records in a database. A Database Management System (DBMS) controls redundancy of records and provides the security, integrity, and data independence of a database.
DBA	Database Administrator. In DHCP, the person who monitors namespacing conventions and other procedures that enable various DHCP packages to coexist within an integrated database system.
DBIA	Database Integration Agreement, a formal understanding between two or more DHCP packages which describes how data is shared or how packages interact. The DBA maintains a list of DBIAs.
DBIC	Database Integration Committee. Within the purview of the DBA, the committee maintains a list of DBIC-approved callable entry points and publishes the list on FORUM for reference by application programmers.
Default Response	A response the computer considers the most probable answer to the prompt being given. It is identified by double slash marks (//) immediately following it. This allows you the option of accepting the default answer or entering your own answer. To accept the default you simply press the enter (or return) key. To change the default answer, type in your response.
Delete	The key on your keyboard (may also be called rubout or backspace on some terminals) which allows you to delete individual characters working backwards by placing the cursor immediately after the last character of the string of characters you wish to delete. The @ sign (uppercase of the 2 key) may also be used to delete a file entry or data attribute value. The computer asks "Are you sure you want to delete this entry?" to insure you do not delete an entry by mistake.

Delete Access	A user's authorization to remove information stored in a computer file.
Delimiter	A special character used to separate a field, record or string. VA FileMan uses the ^ character as the delimiter within strings.
Device	A peripheral connected to the host computer, such as a printer, terminal, disk drive, modem, and other types of hardware and equipment associated with a computer. The host files of underlying operating systems may be treated like devices in that they may be written to (e.g., for spooling).
Device Handler	The Kernel module that provides a mechanism for accessing peripherals and using them in controlled ways (e.g., user access to printers or other output devices).
DHCP	The Decentralized Hospital Computer Program of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). DHCP application packages, developed within VA, are used to support clinical and administrative functions at VA medical centers nationwide.
Disk	The media used in a disk drive for storing data.
Disk Drive	A peripheral device that can be used to "read" and "write" on a hard or floppy disk.
Double Quote (")	A symbol used in front of a Common option's menu text or synonym to select it from the Common menu. For example, the five-character string "TBOX selects the User's Toolbox Common option.
DR String	The set of characters used to define the variable DR when calling VA FileMan. Since a series of parameters may be included within quotes as a literal string, the variable's definition is often called the DR string. To define the fields within an edit sequence, for example, the programmer may specify the fields using a DR string rather than an input template.
DUZ	A local variable holding the user number that identifies the signed-on user.

DUZ(0)	A local variable that holds the File Manager Access Code of the signed-on user.
Electronic Signature Code	A secret password that some users may need in order to sign documents via the computer.
Encryption	Scrambling data or messages with a cipher or code so that they are unreadable without a secret key. In some cases encryption algorithms are one directional, that is, they only encode and the resulting data cannot be unscrambled (e.g., access/verify codes).
Enter	Pressing the return or enter key tells the computer to execute your instruction or command or to store the information you just entered.
Entry	A VA FileMan record. It is uniquely identified by an internal entry number (the .001 field) in a file.
Error Trap	A mechanism to capture system errors and record facts about the computing context such as the local symbol table, last global reference, and routine in use. Errors can be trapped and, when possible, the user is returned to the menu system.
Expert Panel	Representative users from the field and Program Office who make recommendations for software development. The Expert Panels (EPs) report to and are formed by the ARGs.
Extractor	A specialized routine designed to scan data files and copy or summarize data for use by another process.
Field	In a record, a specified area used for the value of a data attribute. The data specifications of each VA FileMan field are documented in the file's Data Dictionary. A field is similar to blanks on forms. It is preceded by words that tell you what information goes in that particular field. The blank, marked by the cursor on your terminal screen, is where you enter the information. VA FileMan files maintain a count of the number of entries or records.
File	A set of related records treated as a unit. VA FileMan files maintain a count of the number of entries or records.

File Access Security system	Formerly known as Part 3 of the Kernel Inits. If the File Access Security conversion has been run, file-level security for VA FileMan files is controlled by Kernel's File Access Security system, not by VA FileMan access codes.
File Manager (VA Fileman)	See VA FileMan.
FOIA	The Freedom Of Information Act. Under the provisions of this public law, software developed within the VA is made available to other institutions, or the general public, at a nominal cost.
Forced Queuing	A device attribute indicating that the device can only accept queued tasks. If a job is sent for foreground processing, the device rejects it and prompts the user to queue the task instead.
FORUM	The central E-mail system within DHCP. It is used by developers to communicate at a national level about programming and other issues. FORUM is located at the Washington, DC IRM Field Office (162-2).
Free Text	A type of data field whose permissible values are any combination of numbers, letters, and symbols.
Global Variable	A variable that is permanently stored on disk (as contrasted with a local variable).
Go-home Jump	A menu jump that returns the user to the Primary menu presented at sign-on. It is specified by entering two up-arrows (^ ^) at the menu's select prompt. It resembles the rubber band jump but without an option specification after the up-arrows.
Hardware	The physical equipment pieces that make up the computer system (e.g., terminals, disk drives, central processing units). The physical components of a computer system.
Help Frames	Entries in the HELP FRAME file that may be distributed with application packages to provide on-line documentation. Frames may be linked with other related frames to form a nested structure.

Help Prompt	Computer assistance available to you at your terminal screen. The Help function assists you with menus and describes options so you can make the proper choice. To get "help" in DHCP, enter one to four question marks in response to a prompt. The level of help you get increases with the number of question marks you enter.
Hook or Link	Non-specific terms referring to ways in which files may be related (via pointer links) or can be accessed (via hooks).
IDCU	The Integrated Data Communications Utility, a wide area network used by VA to interconnect computers for transmitting data between VA sites.
IFCAP	Integrated Funds Distribution, Control Point Activity, Accounting, and Procurement.
Internal Entry Number (IEN)	The number used to identify an entry within a file. Every record has a unique internal entry number.
IRM	Information Resource Management. A service at VA medical centers responsible for computer management and system security.
IRM Field Office	Formerly ISC.
ISC	Information Systems Center, now called IRM Field Office.
ISO	Information Security Officer. Person responsible for information security at each VA Medical Center. Works in conjunction with Regional Security Officers (RISOs).
Jump	In DHCP applications, the Jump command allows you to go from a particular field within an option to another field within that same option. You may also Jump from one menu option to another menu option without having to respond to all the prompts in between. To jump, type an up-arrow (^) -- which is your shift key plus the 6 key -- and then type the name of the field or option you wish to jump to. (See Go-home, Phantom, Rubber Band, or Up-arrow Jump.)

Jump Start	A logon procedure whereby the user enters the "access code;verify code;option" to go immediately to the target option, indicated by its menu text or synonym. The jump syntax can be used to reach an option within the menu trees by entering "access;verify;^option".
Kernel	A set of DHCP software routines that function as an intermediary between the host operating system and the DHCP application packages such as Network Health Exchange, Laboratory, Pharmacy, IFCAP, and others. The Kernel provides a standard and consistent user and programmer interface between application packages and the underlying M implementation. It enables DHCP packages to coexist in a standard operating-system-independent computing environment.
Keyword	A word or phrase used to call up several codes from the reference files in the LOCAL LOOKUP file. One specific code may be called up by several different keywords.
Laygo Access	A DHCP user's authorization to create a new entry when editing a computer file. (Learn As You GO allows you the ability to create new file entries.)
Link or Hook	Non-specific term referring to ways in which files may be related (via pointer links). Files have links into other files.
Login/Logon	The process of gaining access to a computer system.
Logout/Logoff	The process of exiting from a computer system.
M	A programming language recognized by the American National Standards Institute. Alternately known as MUMPS; the acronym MUMPS stands for Massachusetts General Hospital Utility Multiprogramming System.
Mail Message	An entry in the MESSAGE file. The DHCP electronic mail system (MailMan) supports local and remote networking of messages.
MailMan	An electronic mail system that allows you to send and receive messages from other users via the computer. It handles user-oriented mail messages, automatic firing of bulletins, and initiation of server-handled data transmissions.

Manager Account	A UCI that can be referenced by non-manager accounts such as production accounts. Like a library, the MGR UCI holds percent routines and globals (e.g., ^%ZOSF) for shared use by other UCIs.
Mandatory Field	This is a field that requires a value. A null response is not valid.
MAS	Medical Administration Service.
Medical Care Cost Recovery (MCCR)	A VA project to collect data from entities which owe payment to VA for care of patients. Also referred to by the acronym MCCR.
Menu	A list of choices for computing activity. A menu is a type of option designed to identify a series of items (other options) for presentation to the user for selection. When displayed, menu-type options are preceded by the word "Select" and followed by the word "option" as in Select Menu Management option: (the menu's select prompt).
Menu	A list of choices for computing activity. A menu is a type of option designed to identify a series of items (other options) for presentation to the user for selection.
Menu Cycle	The process of first visiting a menu option by picking it from a menu's list of choices and then returning to the menu's select prompt. Menu Manager keeps track of information, such as the user's place in the menu trees, according to the completion of a cycle through the menu system.
Menu Manager	The Kernel module that controls the presentation of user activities such as menu choices or options. Information about each user's menu choices is stored in the Compiled Menu System, the ^XUTL global, for easy and efficient access.
Menu Template	An association of options as pathway specifications to reach one or more final destination options. The final options must be executable activities and not merely menus for the template to function. Any user may define user-specific menu templates via the corresponding Common option.

Menu Text	The descriptive words that appear when a list of option choices is displayed. Specifically, the Menu Text field of the OPTION file. For example, User's Toolbox is the menu text of the XUSERTOOLS option. The option's synonym is TBOX.
Menu Trees	The menu system's hierarchical tree-like structures that can be traversed or navigated, like pathways, to give users easy access to various options.
MIRMO	Medical Information Resources Management Office.
MIS	Management Information System.
Modem	A device for connecting a terminal to a telephone line, allowing it to communicate with another modem.
Monitor	The device on which images generated by the computer are displayed. The term usually refers to a video display and its housing. (See CRT, VDT, Terminal.)
Multiple	A multiple-valued field; a subfile. In many respects, a multiple is structured like a file.
MUMPS	See M.
Namespacing	The convention of using a unique 2-4 character prefix for package components like options and routines. The DBA assigns unique character strings for package developers to use in naming routines, options, and other package elements so that packages may coexist. Namespacing includes "number spacing" whereby the files of a package stay within a pre-defined range of numbers.
National Network Health Exchange (NHE) Registry	This DHCP package consists of two major components: 1) a local registry for use within a VA health care facility, and 2) a National Registry reflecting the events of care for patients at all VA facilities.
Node	In a tree structure, a point at which subordinate items of data originate. A MUMPS array element is characterized by a name and a unique subscript. Thus, the terms node, array element, and subscripted variable are synonymous. In a global array, each node might have specific fields or "pieces" reserved for data attributes.

Numeric Field	A data field whose permissible values are limited to numeric characters of a restricted number of digits. It can be dollar valued or a decimal figure of specified precision.
Online	A device is online when it is connected and capable of responding to the computer.
Operating System	A basic program that runs on the computer, controls the peripherals, allocates computing time to each user, and communicates with terminals.
Option	An entry in the OPTION file. As an item on a menu, an option provides an opportunity for users to select it, thereby invoking the associated computing activity. Options may also be scheduled to run in the background, non-interactively, by TaskMan. Options are namespaced according to DHCP conventions monitored by the DBA.
PAC	Programmer Access Code. An optional user attribute that may function as a second level password into programmer mode.
Package	<p>The set of programs, files, documentation, help prompts, and installation procedures required for a given software application, for example, Network Health Exchange, Laboratory, Pharmacy, and MAS.</p> <p>A DHCP software environment composed of elements specified via the Kernel's Package file. Elements include files and associated templates, namespaced routines, and namespaced file entries from the OPTION, KEY, HELP FRAME, BULLETIN, and FUNCTION files. As public domain software, officially released packages may be requested through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).</p>
Part 3 of the Kernel Init	See File Access Security system.
Password	A user's confidential sequence of keyboard characters, which must be entered at the beginning of each computer session to provide the user's identity.

Patch	An update to a package. Patches can include code, documentation, and information updates. Patches are applied to the programs on your DHCP system by IRM Service.
Peripheral Device	Any hardware device other than the computer itself (central processing unit plus internal memory). Typical examples include card readers, printers, CRT units, and disk drives.
Phantom Jump	Menu jumping in the background. Used by the menu system to check menu pathway restrictions.
Pointer	A pointer is a file entry that references another file (forward or backward). It allows entries in one VA FileMan file to be the field values of another file.
Primary Menus	The list of options presented at sign-on. Each user must have a primary menu in order to sign-on and reach Menu Manager. Users are given primary menus by IRM. This menu should include most of the computing activities the user needs.
Printer	A printing or hard copy terminal.
Production Account	The UCI where users log on and carry out their work, as opposed to the manager, or library, account.
Program	A list of instructions written in a programming language and used for computer operations.
Programmer Access	Privilege to become a programmer on the system and work outside many of the security controls of Kernel. Accessing programmer mode from Kernel's menus requires having the programmer's at-sign security code, which sets the variable DUZ(0)=@.
Prompt	The computer interacts with the user by issuing questions or messages called prompts, to which the user issues a response.
Queuing	Requesting that a job be processed in the background rather than in the foreground within the current session. Jobs are processed sequentially (first-in, first-out). The Kernel's Task Manager handles the queuing of tasks.

Queuing Required	An option attribute that specifies that the option must be processed by TaskMan (the option can only be queued). The option may be invoked and the job prepared for processing, but the output can only be generated during the specified time periods.
Read Access	A user's authorization to read information stored in a computer file.
Record	A set of related data treated as a unit. An entry in a VA FileMan file constitutes a record. A collection of data items that refer to a specific entity (e.g., in a name-address-phone number file, each record would contain a collection of data relating to one person).
Required Field	A mandatory field, one that must not be left blank. The prompt for such a field will be repeated until the user enters a valid response.
Return	On the computer keyboard, the key located where the carriage return is on an electric typewriter. It is used in DHCP to terminate "reads." Symbolized by <RET>. On many keyboards, it is called Enter.
RISO	Regional Information Security Officer. Regional representative of VA Medical Center Information Security Officers (ISOs).
Routine	A program or sequence of computer instructions that may have some general or frequent use. M routines are groups of program lines that are saved, loaded, and called as a single unit via a specific name.
Rubber Band Jump	A menu jump used to go out to an option and then return, in a bouncing motion. The syntax of the jump is two up-arrows followed by an option's menu text or synonym (e.g., ^^Print Option File). If the two up-arrows are not followed by an option specification, the user is returned to the primary menu (see Go-home Jump).
SAC	Standards and Conventions (maintained by the SACC, setting guidelines to be followed by DHCP application programmers).
SACC	Standards and Conventions Committee of DHCP. This committee is responsible for maintaining the SAC.

Scheduling Options	A way of ordering TaskMan to run an option at a designated time with a specified rescheduling frequency, such as once per week.
Scroll/No Scroll	The Scroll/No Scroll button (also called Hold Screen) allows the user to "stop" (No Scroll) the terminal screen when large amounts of data are displayed too fast to read and "restart" (Scroll) when the user wishes to continue.
Secondary Menus	Options assigned to individual users to tailor their menu choices. If a user needs a few options in addition to those available on the Primary menu, the options can be assigned as secondary options. To facilitate menu jumping, secondary menus should be specific activities, not elaborate and deep menu trees.
Secure Menu Delegation (SMD)	A controlled system whereby menus and keys can be allocated by people other than IRM staff, such as application coordinators, who have been so authorized.
Security Key	Security Keys set a layer of protection on the range of computing capabilities available with a particular software package. The availability of options is based on the level of system access granted to each user.
Server	An entry in the OPTION file. An automated mail protocol that is activated by sending a message to a server at another location with the "S.server" syntax. This activity is specified in the OPTION file.
Set of Codes	Usually a preset code with one or two characters. The computer may require capital letters as a response (e.g., M for male and F for female). If anything other than the acceptable code is entered, the computer rejects the response.
Sign-on/Security	The Kernel module that regulates access to the menu system. It performs a number of checks to determine whether access can be permitted at a particular time. A log of sign-ons is maintained.
Site Manager/IRM Chief	At each site, the individual who is responsible for managing computer systems, installing and maintaining new modules, and serving as liaison to the IRM Field Offices.

Software	The set of instructions and data required to operate the computer. One type is called operating system software -- fundamental computer software that supports other software. The second type is called applications software -- customized programs that tell the computer how to run applications (e.g., NHE, Pharmacy, Laboratory).
Spacebar Return	You can answer a VA FileMan prompt by pressing the spacebar and then the Return key. This indicates to VA FileMan that you would like the last response you were working on at that prompt recalled.
Special Queuing	An option attribute indicating that TaskMan should automatically run the option whenever the system reboots.
Spooling	<p>Spooling (under any system) provides an intermediate storage location for files (or program output) for printing at a later time.</p> <p>In the case of DHCP, the Kernel manages spooling so that the underlying OS mechanism is transparent and transfers the text to a global for subsequent despooling (printing) .</p>
Subscript	In MUMPS, a numeric or string value that is enclosed in parentheses, appended to the name of a local or global variable, and used to identify a specific node within an array.
Synonym	A field in the OPTION file. Options may be selected by their menu text or synonym (see Menu Text).
TaskMan	The Kernel module that schedules and processes background tasks (also called Task Manager).
Templates	A means of storing report formats, data entry formats, and sorted entry sequences. A template is a permanent place to store selected fields for use at a later time. Edit sequences are stored in the INPUT TEMPLATE file, print specifications are stored in the PRINT TEMPLATE file, and search or sort specifications are stored in the SORT TEMPLATE file.
Terminal	May be either a printer or CRT/monitor/video display terminal. A terminal does little or no computer processing on its own; instead, it is connected to a computer by a communications link. (See Monitor and CRT.)

Timed-read	The amount of time a READ command waits for a user response before it times out.
TREE STRUCTURE	A term sometimes used to describe the structure of an M array. This has the same structure as a family tree, with the root at the top and ancestor nodes arranged below according to their depth of subscripting. All nodes with one subscript are at the first level, all nodes with two subscripts at the second level, and so on.
Trigger	A type of VA FileMan cross reference. Often used to update values in the database given certain conditions (as specified in the trigger logic). For example, whenever an entry is made in a file, a trigger could automatically enter the current date into another field holding the creation date.
Type-ahead	A buffer used to store characters that are entered before the corresponding prompt appears. Type-ahead is a shortcut for experienced users who can anticipate an expected sequence of prompts.
UCI	User Class Identification, a computing area. The MGR UCI is typically the manager's account, while VAH or ROU may be production accounts.
Up-arrow Jump	In the menu system, entering an up-arrow (^) followed by an option name accomplishes a jump to the target option without needing to take the usual steps through the menu pathway.
User Access	<p>This term is used to refer to a limited level of access, to a computer system, which is sufficient for using/operating a package, but does not allow programming, modification to data dictionaries, or other operations that require programmer access. Any option, for example, can be locked with the key XUPROGMODE, which means that invoking that option requires programmer access.</p> <p>The user's access level determines the degree of computer use and the types of computer programs available. The Systems Manager assigns the user an access level.</p>

User Interface	The way the package is presented to the user -- issuing of prompts, help messages, menu choices, etc. A standard user interface can be achieved by using VA FileMan for data manipulation, the menu system to provide option choices, and VA FileMan's Reader, the ^DIR utility, to present interactive dialogue.
VA FileMan	<p>A set of programs used to enter, maintain, access, and manipulate a database management system consisting of files. A package of online computer routines written in the M language which can be used as a standalone database system or as a set of application utilities.</p> <p>In either form, such routines can be used to define, enter, edit, and retrieve information from a set of computer stored files. VA FileMan is DHCP's Database Management System (DBMS).</p>
VAX	Virtual Address Extension; a computer series manufactured by Digital Equipment Corporation. One of the types of computers used by DHCP.
VDI	Video Display Terminal. (See CRT, Terminal, Monitor.)
Verify Code	An additional security precaution used in conjunction with the Access Code to provide secure user access. Like the Access Code, it is also 6 to 20 characters in length and, if entered incorrectly, will not allow the user to access the computer. To protect the user, both codes are invisible on the terminal screen. (See Access Code and Password.)
Write Access	A user's authorization to write/update/edit information stored in a computer file.
Z Editor (^%Z)	A Kernel tool used to edit routines or globals. It can be invoked with an option, or from direct mode after loading a routine with >X ^%Z.

**ZOSF Global
(^%ZOSF)**

The Operating System File -- a manager account global distributed with the Kernel to provide an interface between DHCP application packages and the underlying operating system. This global is built during Kernel installation when running the manager setup routine (ZTMGRSET). The nodes of the global are filled-in with operating system-specific code to enable interaction with the operating system. Nodes in the ^%ZOSF global may be referenced by application programmers so that separate versions of the package need not be written for each operating system.

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Department of Veterans Affairs
Decentralized Hospital Computer Program

NETWORK HEALTH EXCHANGE TECHNICAL MANUAL

Version 5.1
February 1996

Information Resources Management Field Office
San Francisco

Preface

Network Health Exchange (NHE) Version 5.1, a component of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Decentralized Hospital Computer Program (DHCP), is a software package that allows Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC)s to request either complete or pharmacy patient Health Summaries from each other. NHE was created by the Chicago Westside VAMC. This software is being released as an interim bridge to a more fully integrated clinical patient data exchange system.

This is the **Technical Manual** for the package. It provides the necessary information for the technical operation of the software. It is intended for use by:

- the Site Manager/Information Resource Management (IRM) Service Chief
- ADP Application Coordinator (ADPAC)
- other technical computer personnel

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